



Oct, Nov, Dec 2008

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Success Story

A Long Strange Trip – Summer 2008

This summer has been a long strange trip to say the least. In addition to our regular duties many of the Iowa Waste Exchange Area Resource Specialists, not unlike many of our colleagues, have been assisting with disaster recovery efforts. The form this has taken for the Iowa Waste Exchange has been to seek out materials - formerly destined for the landfill - that can be used in rebuilding efforts and to match these materials with businesses, organizations, communities and individuals in need. For me, these matches - although smaller in volume than some of the *usual* materials we deal with - have been the most ethically pleasing to date. This summer matches have been a result of the 2008 disasters and in some cases have resulted in just being in the right place at the right time.

Very early in the summer, I was attending a session on *Customer Service for Natural Resources Personnel* at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Springbrook Education Center near Guthrie Center, Iowa. On a break, I was looking out the window at some raccoons that were playing nearby and noticed that mattresses from all of the cabins were being replaced. After the session, I sought out Springbrook staff members to inquire about the used mattresses. After I talked with Springbrook Training Specialist, Anne Riordan, who agreed to have the old mattresses stored until the Iowa Waste Exchange could find an alternative home for them, I immediately contacted Guthrie County's Waste Exchange Specialist, Fred Kesten and both he and I were on the lookout for a new home for these used mattresses and began contacting non-profits within the Des Moines area. Because of logistical difficulties, we were having very little luck in finding a home for them.



tresses from Springbrook.

The gentleman smiled and answered, "We have been waiting for you. We just talked about replacing mattresses yesterday." He took my card and the very next day, I was contacted by Cole Lindholm, Hope Ministries Director of Men's Ministries. Cole explained that just before I contacted them at the Bethel Mission facility, he had been researching where they could purchase mattresses for their bunks at their Bethel and Door of Faith facilities. I forward Anne's contact information to Cole and subsequently 40 used vinyl mattresses from Springbrook Education Center were rerouted from the landfill for use at the Bethel and Door of Faith facilities.

Later in the summer, if driving by the parking lot of Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa during the evening, you might have spotted my good friend Becky Wehrman (***Continued on page 2***)

Sometimes the lights all shinin on me;

Other times I can barely see.

Lately it occurs to me what a long, strange trip its been.

– Jerry Garcia

Hosted By



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CONGRATULATIONS!

Landfill of North Iowa Clear Lake

Winner of the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operators 2008 *Best Environmental Protection Facility* award.

Susan G. Komen Des Moines Affiliate

Winner of the Iowa Recycling Association's *Best Public Education Campaign* award.

Chem Station Des Moines

Winner of the Iowa Recycling Association's *Murray J. Fox Innovation* award.

of Metro Waste Authority (who we now lovingly refer to as "Mother Becky Teresa") and I transferring paint from one vehicle to another for delivery to Parkersburg, Iowa for rebuilding efforts. Becky and I worked with several Des Moines businesses throughout the summer who generously donated gallons upon gallons of used paint and painting supplies – formerly destined for the landfill - to be used in rebuilding efforts.



Merry Rankin with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program returns a family Bible (found by AWARE volunteers on the Winnebago River near Mason City) to the Ken E. Marth family of Charles City.

In August, in addition to providing markets and technical assistance that resulted in the diversion of 61,780 pounds of recyclable materials, we were able to assist volunteers and DNR Project AWARE staff members in salvaging and returning materials found on the Winnebago and Cedar Rivers to flood victims. Most notably - perfectly unscathed crystal dishes, still wrapped in newspaper and a family Bible found near Mason City, Iowa. Thanks to adventurous college students who participated in flood cleanups the week prior to AWARE coming through, we got to see a bear that had been rescued from the Cedar River – a wooden one, but it was a bear just the same and provided an interesting evening of excitement.



Tanner Jacobs, Kalen Smidt and Wesley Ruby pose with the AWARE bear that they rescued from the woods along the Cedar River.

As we move into fall the long strange trip continues. Currently working with Lane Stumme, Director of the Habitat Restore in Des Moines, Kaylene Hoskins with Presbyterian Disaster Recovery in Waterloo and with the assistance of Larry Grubisich, Executive Director for Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Business Resources and Dave Pfiffner Director of DMACC's Transportation Institute we are working on placing commercial grade carpeting from the Des Moines area with disaster

victims in northern Iowa. Hopefully, we will have these transactions completed before the Thanksgiving holiday. This year in particular, we have many things to be thankful for – have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Mark your Calendars

Iowa Center on Sustainable Communities 4th Annual *Building a Sustainable Iowa Workshop*

November 10th and 11th - **Cedar Falls**, November 12th and 13th - **Ankeny**, November 14 and 15th - **Fairfield**

For more information visit www.icosc.com

Managing Floods in the Future: Concepts, Tools, and Success Stories

November 12- Cedar Falls (UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education)

November 13 - Iowa City (Johnson County Fairgrounds)

For more information contact Kamyar Enshayan, Kamyar.Enshayan@uni.edu, (319) 273-7575

DISASTER ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Iowa Waste Exchange, working in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity ReStore, DMACC and Presbyterian Disaster Recovery is in need of volunteers to assist in **LOADING** carpeting in Des Moines for transportation to disaster victims in northern Iowa on November 4, 2008 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at a warehouse location on University and 6th Street in Des Moines.

Anyone willing and able to assist, please contact Shelly Codner, shelly@netins.net, (319) 404-1942.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Iowa Waste Exchange, working in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity ReStore, DMACC and Presbyterian Disaster Recovery is in need of volunteers to assist in **UNLOADING** carpeting in Butler County for distribution to disaster victims in surrounding communities on November 5, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Butler County Fairgrounds, Allison, Iowa.

Anyone willing and able to assist, please contact Shelly Codner, shelly@netins.net, (319) 404-1942.

A special **THANK YOU** to all volunteers
And sponsors for making this year's Susan G.
Komen *Recycling at the Race* a success!

mark THE date

The Iowa Disaster Recovery Conference and Community Design Workshop
December 9-10
Conference
December 11
Workshop (optional)
Marriott Coralville Hotel & Conference Center

who should attend:
Architects, engineers, contractors, businesses, industries, city, county and community leaders and consultants

conference highlights:
In response to communities devastated by the 2008 Iowa natural disasters, this two-day conference and optional third day workshop will provide an overview of critical regulatory issues, highlight community rebuilding efforts and offer sustainable rebuilding resources including information on green design.

LEARNING FROM THE PAST PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
The Iowa Disaster Recovery Conference

For more information and to register visit www.iowalifechanging.com/register.

REMINDER

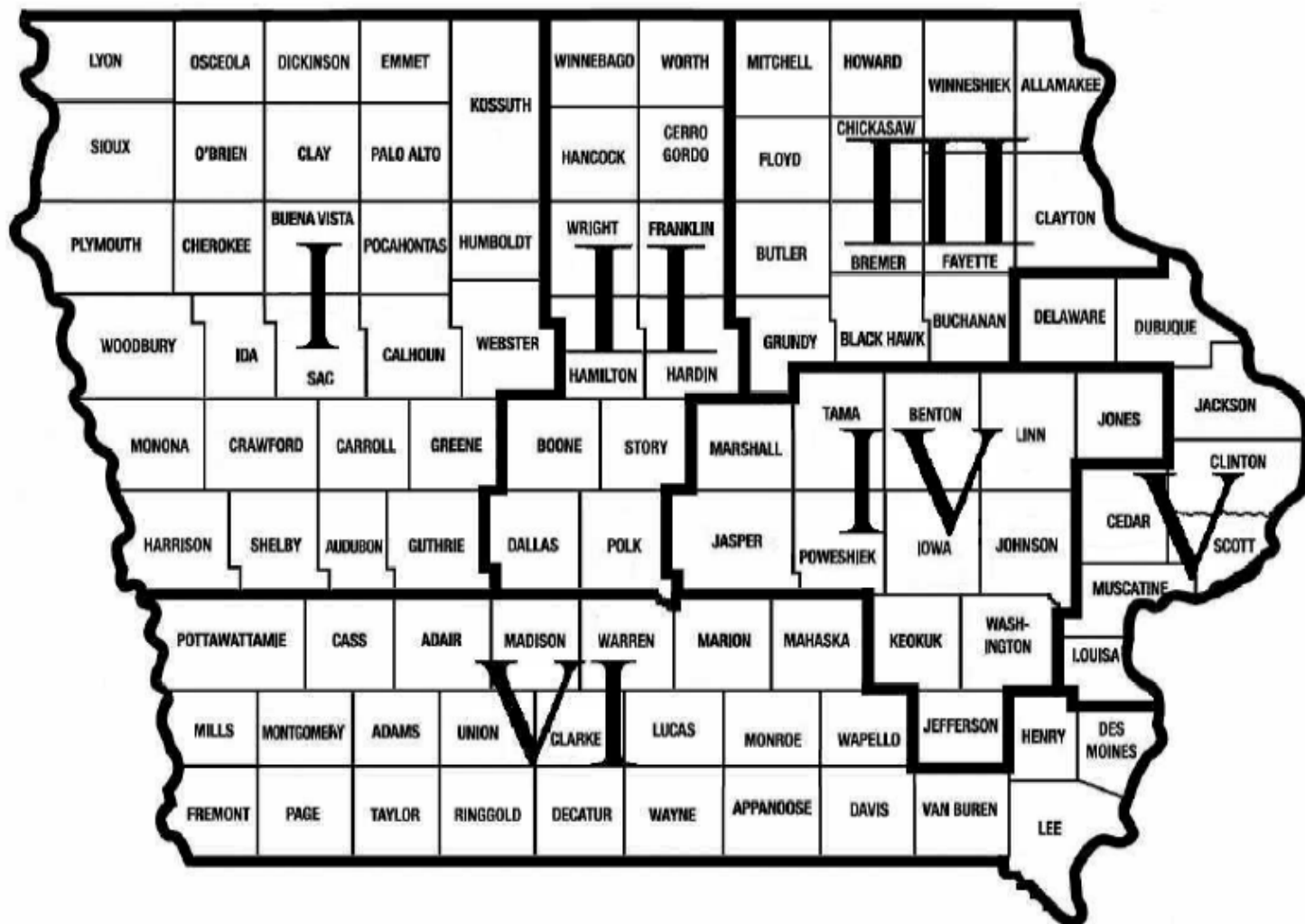
Business applications for the Pollution Prevention Intern Program are due by November 15, 2008. For more information, case studies and application materials visit: www.iowadnr.com/waste/p2/index.html

IWE Welcomes Ben Kvigne

Ben Kvigne will serve as the Area Resource Specialist for Dubuque and Delaware Counties. Ben is housed at the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments. Ben received his BS Degree in Conservation earlier this year from the University of Wisconsin in River Falls. While completing his degree, he was a Wildlife Habitat Laborer with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Welcome Ben! Ben's contact information is below:

Ben Kvigne
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Fax: 319.235.2891
bkvigne@inrcog.org

Find your Area Resource Specialist, search and add available and wanted materials and read past success stories at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website
www.iowadnr.com/waste/iwe/index.html



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